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WITHDRAWN

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HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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JULY No. 23 1931

WALTER S. GIFFORD, '~~97~~ 05, as chairman of the Committee appointed by the Board of Overseers to visit the Library, entertained the members of the Committee at dinner at the Club of Odd Volumes on Monday evening, April 13. Messrs. Wilmerding, Harper, White and Gade came over from New York, while the Boston members present were Messrs. Bemis, Parker, and Taylor. Professor Kittredge represented the Library Council, and Messrs. Blake, Potter and Winship the staff. Most of these came to the Library building during the afternoon, when Mr. Blake reported on his impressions of the new Yale building, and on the formal opening exercises of the preceding Saturday. There was a comprehensive discussion of the administration of the Harvard Library and its present and future needs.

Professor Kittredge spoke at the dinner of Mr. Lane's services to Harvard, and of the importance of Robert Gould Shaw's contribution of the Theatre Collection, a subject on which Mr. Harper also spoke feelingly. Mr. Gifford spoke of his intimate association with Henry S. Howe, and of Mr. Howe's great fondness for the books which he bequeathed to the Library. The Committee suggested the more frequent appearance of LIBRARY NOTES, and provision was made for expediting the handling of the Risorgimento acquisition. Mr. Potter dwelt on the importance of this collection, and Mr. Blake explained how the Italian literature section has been built up by Mr. Potter's watchfulness. Mr. Winship told of the develop-

ment of Morris Gray's gift for modern poetry into a separate room with its own organization for the cultivation of interest in this subject.

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Two of the gifts announced by President Lowell on Commencement Day are for the Library: $50,000 as an endowment for the Poetry Room, in memory of George Edward Woodberry '77, from Harry Harkness Flagler of New York; and a bequest of $25,000 from Henry Saltonstall Howe '69, of Brookline. Mr. Howe's will suggested that it would gratify him if the income from his fund is spent for what are known as 'Association' books, because the actual volume has been associated, through ownership or otherwise, with someone whose personality gives it a special interest. In fulfillment of this wish, the first purchase charged to the new fund was a copy of Mrs. Hester Lynch Piozzi's 'Retrospection: or a Review of the most striking and important Events, Characters, Situations, and their Consequences," a subject on which Dr. Johnson's friend was peculiarly fitted to animadvert, to the extent of 540 quarto pages. The book was printed in 1801, and at the upper corner of the title page is written, in her well-known hand, 'Corrected by the Author H. L. P. 20: June 1802.'

The Johnsonians of today are amply repaying the devotion that Mrs. Piozzi lavished on the Doctor, and a volume that had passed under her annotating pen would have been far beyond the Library's reach, if the Howe Fund had not reached the Treasurer's keeping at the opportune moment. This purchase illustrates the value to the Library of a fund with special limitations which might easily be misinterpreted as being improper for a scholars' working collection. The book has an added value because the Library already possessed two even more important examples of her annotations, Miss Lowell's copies of 'Boswell's Johnson,' and his 'Tour of the Hebrides.' A study of these

was made for LIBRARY NOTES for April, 1926 by Percival Merritt '82, whose volume on 'Piozzi Marginalia,' printed in 1925, established his position as a principal guide to this entertaining by-path through the literary garden of the late eighteenth century.

* * *

ANOTHER BOOK that is associated even more intimately, in a way, with Mrs. Piozzi, slipped into the Library in 1927, as a gift from Mrs. Warwick Potter of Greenwich, Connecticut. This is, rather oddly, the first, and still the only example on its shelves of the Book of Common Prayer printed by John Baskerville — a complete set of which may be seen at the Boston Public Library. The former owner did not annotate this book, but on the fly-leaf is written: '3: July 1820. presented to dear Mrs. Rudd Sion Row Clifton by H: L: PIOZZI. who wrote her Name in it 30 Years ago, at BRYNBELLA NEAR DENBIGH NORTH WALES.' The place, as well as the name, appear to have been written at the earlier date, and the presentation inscription around them when she gave it away.

* * *

ANOTHER SERIES of Mrs. Piozzi's marginalia, not in her handwriting, but only one remove therefrom, came to Harvard as part of Charles Eliot Norton's collection. They are in his hand, in a copy of her two volumes of 'Observations and Reflections made in the course of a Journey through France, Italy, and Germany,' printed in 1789. The book had belonged to his father and grandfather, and Norton found it at hand on his shelves in 1861, when he dated the following memorandum:

> The marginal notes in these volumes are copied from the pages of a copy of the 'Observations' &c. in the possession of Mr. D. C. Pell of Newport, R. I., which Mrs. Piozzi had annotated and given to Mr. Conway, in 1819. I have given an account of the book, with other extracts from its mss. contents in the 'Atlantic Monthly'; May & June 1861.
>
> There are notes in the Conway copy which I have not transferred to this; most of them being trivial, one or two of them coarse, & several pedantic. C. E. N.

A BY-PRODUCT of Dr. Benjamin Rand's exposition of the philosophical opinions of John Locke, is a volume in which the older philosopher placed his signature on the flyleaf, and which has been given into the custody of the Library for safe keeping. It contains the armorial bookplate, engraved by G. W. Eve, of the late Lionel Fortescue, Earl of Lovelace, who inherited Locke's library through a cousin of the latter. Lady Lovelace, in a letter that accompanied the book, explains that the valuable portion of their library is in storage, 'but the other day I found this very uninteresting little book, in a corner of a shelf, and if you will accept it from me, as from my dear husband, I should be so glad.' The book, which interested the philosopher sufficiently to lead him to establish his ownership of it, is the 1666 edition of 'Histoire Amoureuse de France Par Bussy Rabutin, auec ses maximes d'Amour.'

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JULY FIRST is the beginning of the University year, and as of that date Mr. Currier made his annual report on the size of the College Library. The classified sections, based on a count of the shelf lists, with all known gains and losses figured, contain 1,397,700 volumes. There are, unclassified but grouped under the Alcove headings of an earlier system, 11,600 (500 less than a year ago, showing a slow but steady attack upon this group), besides 1,630 deposited at the Andover-Harvard library, and 3,570 at the Boston Medical Library. The old pamphlet files, accumulated during a century or more, have shrunk 700, to a closely estimated 62,000. The Harry Elkins Widener Collection has 3,200 titles; the Nathan Littauer collection of Hebrew books is counted as 14,500; and the Risorgimento collection has been estimated as 20,000, undoubtedly conservatively as the number of probable duplicates is presumably overestimated. The number of other volumes waiting to be handled by the Catalogue Department is 38,900, a thousand more than a year ago; and there are

1,600 books, estimated, in the building waiting for the Order Department to accept them and start them on their way to the shelves where readers, or users, can find them. The total count is 1,554,700 — a net gain over a year ago of 71,700.

If thirty volumes to a shelf is a fair average allowance, this would mean 2,400 shelves, if the books could be packed solid. There are 56 shelves to a normal row in the stack, and 172 rows on each of the ten stack floors; in other words, this year's accessions dispose of one-fortieth of the total stack capacity.

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Some of those who look at these Notes when they appear are not deeply interested in Icelandic poets, but if they care about the Harvard Library, the articles in this issue will show them, better than manifold expositions, how the library grows, and how it is trying to adapt itself to the problems created by this growth. These problems are largely intellectual, and involve a mental readjustment which accepts as part of the day's work Italian politics and Icelandic poetry and Hebrew liturgics and birth control and Cincinnati imprints and Portuguese news sheets and Ben Jonson autographs — to mention only matters of recent interest.

The Library has outgrown one difficulty with which it has had to contend ever since the Widener building was occupied in 1915. In this building, the contents of Gore Hall rattled around for a decade, and its administrators, who had acquired their official habits in the old building which was overcrowded before 1890, had difficulty in readjusting themselves to the new garments, which were as much too large as the old had been too small. This difficulty has now corrected itself. The College Library is still directly in charge of those who were accustomed to conditions in old Gore Hall, and it is with an unpleasant feeling of familiarity that they meet Mr. Shea's reports from the Shelf De-

partment that there is no room for incoming books in one and another subject section. The situation is not yet critical, for there are possible makeshifts in sight which will postpone urgency measures, at least until the House Plan has settled itself in the Harvard household. But it will have to be faced one of these days.

* * *

In 1723 the first printed catalogue of the Harvard Library was prepared for the thoroughly practical purpose of enabling a wealthy Englishman to send books which the Library did not already possess. The catalogue, 102 pages with some 35 titles to a page, is a creditable piece of work, and it shows that the books seem to have been systematically arranged according to a scheme not essentially different from that which served the requirements of Harvard students within living memory. The catalogue also served its especial purpose, for a supplement of 10 pages was printed two years later, and another of 12 pages in 1732, both made up largely of titles received from the first Thomas Hollis, who has an assured position very near the head of the list of Harvard Library benefactors.

A chance query brought this Catalogue to mind in connection with a rechecking of the books now in the Library which were written by Increase Mather, President of the College, with interruptions, from 1685 to 1701. An elaborate bibliography of his writings, sponsored by Mr. William Gwinn Mather of Cleveland and compiled by his librarian, Mr. Thomas J. Holmes, has been printed at the Harvard Press, and this shows that Harvard now has 59 of the 102 separate works credited to Mather, in the original or first editions. In 1723, there were 26, and one more was received during the next two years. Seven of these titles are not now in the Library, and at least one of them is not to be found in any Boston collection. All of these were presumably burned in the fire of 1764.

MR. HOLMES tabulates the standing of the seventeen collections upon which his work is based, Harvard ranking 7 among these in possession of first editions, 6 in possession of editions printed within Mather's lifetime, and 4 in possession of any of the 175 items listed in the Bibliography, of which it has 132. Mr. Mather beats it by one, the Boston Public Library by four, and the American Antiquarian Society has a well-deserved preëminence with 147. The only other library in a threatening position is the Massachusetts Historical, with 130. The Library of Congress has 115, and the John Carter Brown Library at Providence, 113 — these three being ahead of Harvard in first editions. Yale has 85, the H. E. Huntington Library 84, the New York Public Library 69, and the British Museum 60; the last two perhaps not completely recorded.

The trouble with these figures is that each of these institutions is isolated, being located where it gets no support from neighboring libraries, except in the Boston community. Of the seventeen largest Mather collections, five Boston institutions and one of the private collectors are within half an hour's travel of each other. Three others are at Worcester, Providence, and Salem. A student who wished to work exhaustively would not be likely to use the College Library, with its 59 first editions, because he could examine 75 at the Boston Public Library, only four less than at the largest collection, in Worcester.

This again is deceptive, for at one or another Boston library the student may see 92 of the 102 Mather first editions, establishing for this community a reasonably safe leadership.

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PRINTED SUPPLEMENTS, one in 1725 and a second in 1732, testify to the generosity of Mr. Hollis's utilization of the first Catalogue. There is no further clue to the contents of the library that burned, after a late midwinter sitting of the provincial legislators, in 1764. That irre-

parable disaster was alleviated by a spontaneous inundation of books from friends of Harvard on both sides of the Atlantic. The aged John Barnard of Marblehead packed up his extraordinarily varied collection to help make good the loss; Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire persuaded his legislature to supplement his personal generosity; scores of graduates sent what they could spare; and a second Thomas Hollis combed the London bookshops to fill case after case of old and new books that he thought might benefit the bereft New England college. The Librarian's gratitude was tempered by despair, for the volumes received at that time bear accession memoranda that testify to the years that passed before he could dig out of the piles of volumes that overwhelmed him.

In 1773 the situation was sufficiently in hand to justify issuing a 27 page, some thousand titles, 'Catalogus Librorum selectus, frequentiorem in Usum Harvardinatum.' It is hardly a reflection on the students of that day, or on the faculty, that none of President Mather's writings found a place in this list of the books they were expected to use.

A complete catalogue was printed in 1790, significantly the year when financial prosperity emerged from the depression which had followed the war of 1775–1782, coincidently with the reorganization of the federal government under a Constitution. There may be 13,000 titles listed on the 358 pages of this catalogue, divided into 68 subject headings, a number which has grown to 250 not quite a century and a half later. Happily, the alphabetization was carefully done, and the classification on the whole is quite as intelligent as at any later date, so that the search for titles is not as hopeless as might be expected. The likely subjects yield only ten of Increase Mather's titles, all but one of which are still in the Library. The next printed catalogue, and the last in book form, appeared just a hundred years ago, dated 1830. The 952 pages, some 25,000 titles arranged alphabetically, are bound in three

volumes, with a fourth containing a classified index as a concession to those who clung to the older customs. There are 24 Increase Mather titles.

For several good reasons, no early serious effort was made to accumulate at Harvard a Mather collection. The American Antiquarian Society possessed the Mather family collection; the Massachusetts Historical Society had a large number of titles, and it was rivalled by the Boston Public Library after the Thomas Prince collection was deposited there by the Old South Church. There were plenty of other things for the Harvard Library to do.

* * *

THREE NOTABLE BENEFACTORS placed the Harvard Mather collection in a position among the leaders. One, Mr. Alfred Mitchell of New London, gave only one volume, in 1908. This contains 18 tracts, of which three are among the scarcest of Increase Mather's writings, and with one of these is John Foster's woodcut portrait of Richard Mather. These tracts were collected by William Adams, and one of them, an account of the Fire of London printed at Boston in 1667, was purchased by him in that year, when he was a Harvard freshman.

George Henry Gay in 1927 gave the library of his uncle, Ernest Lewis Gay, which is described in the issue of these NOTES for September of that year. One of the important minor features of this gift was 17 Mather titles new to Harvard. Ernest Gay's success in gathering so important a Mather collection was due very largely to his close friendship with Mr. P. K. Foley, to whom the Library had long been obligated for many acts of courtesy when he came into possession of things which he believed ought to be at Harvard. After Ernest Gay's death, his books were transferred to the Harvard Library, and with them Mr. Foley's devotion to the collection. The fact that the Library paid for the books he found to add to it, nowise lessens its feeling of warm and affectionate gratitude to the bookseller

who always kept its interests in mind, and made it possible for the purchase to be made.

* * *

GAY was a name sufficiently confusing before the recent arrival of the Risorgimento Collection added one more reason for holding it in high esteem at Harvard.

It is, in the first place, in daily use as the Library's symbol for English political tracts dated from 1603 to 1714 — the accession of the Stuarts to that of the Hanoverians. The bulk of these — they now occupy 26 shelves and have overcrowded 24 deep filing cabinets each holding a double row of unbound tracts — came from the library of Frederick Lewis Gay, given by Mrs. Josephine Spencer Gay after his death. There is no reason to regret the use of the name 'Gay' for this subject classification, although it now has other equally important associations.

F. L. Gay '78, had a younger brother, Ernest Lewis Gay '97, who was likewise a keen collector of books, devoting his attention chiefly to the writings of John Gay of 'The Beggar's Opera.' These were inherited by his nephew, John Henry Gay, who gave them to Harvard in 1927. The Risorgimento Collection now adds to the record the name of Harry Nelson Gay.

New England history benefitted greatly by the books from the libraries of F. L. and E. L. Gay. As these volumes took their place on the Treasure Room shelves, not a few of them found themselves alongside other rarities which had been given to Harvard from the collection of Dr. Winslow Lewis of the class of 1819, whose daughter was the mother of the two Gay brothers.

THE GAY RISORGIMENTO COLLECTION

THE Gay Risorgimento Collection was begun on a very modest scale as an historian's working library. The first volumes were purchased in 1897. The estimated number of titles or pieces received by the Harvard Library in 1931, some since July 1, is more than 42,000.

Mr. Harry Nelson Gay's interest in modern Italy may be said to have had its inception in the Harvard College Library and that he chose this field for historical research and writing, after having taken his A.M. in history at Harvard in 1896 may be ascribed to the reading of William Roscoe Thayer's 'Dawn of Italian Independence.' A subsequent correspondence between the two historians covering twenty-five years bears record to constant mutual help and encouragement. Some 350 letters of Thayer have been preserved by him.

Gay's work, published principally in Italian, was based from the outset on original research calling for wide use of published as well as unpublished sources. The period of Italian history from 1815 to 1871, known as the Risorgimento, is rich in pamphlet literature indispensable to any comprehensive study of events, and the historian soon found himself amassing a quantity of this ephemeral material, as well as more substantial publications. At the time when his studies began, newspapers had been laid under contribution by Italian historians only to a limited extent, but the important part played by journalism in the making of modern Italy was evident. Therefore files of newspapers also soon began to crowd his shelves. In the period between 1900 and 1915, when the substantial foundations of the collection were laid, pamphlets and bound volumes of newspapers were not as rare as they have now become. Material on this period has since been absorbed by national and local Risorgimento libraries of more recent

formation, and not a little was destroyed during the war when fabulous prices for waste paper were current.

Historical work took Gay to all the larger cities which have played a role in modern Italy, and the hours during which the libraries and archives were closed he spent largely in second-hand bookshops collecting local volumes, pamphlets, and newspapers. Similar search for material was carried on outside Italy — in London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Geneva. He became widely known among dealers and received regularly second-hand book catalogues from all parts of Europe. It became his rule that book-catalogues should enjoy the precedence over all correspondence, and rarely was a catalogue offering good material received without provoking an order mailed on the same day.

Several of the most valuable files of newspapers in the collection came from the Whist Club in Turin, of which Cavour was a leading member, among them a well-bound, complete set of Cavour's own newspaper, *Il Risorgimento*, some of the actual numbers of which he probably himself read with his friends. *Il Fischietto*, however, though a Turin publication, did not come from the Whist Club, but was found in an auction room in Rome. It is a beautiful copy, complete from the first number dated 1848, down to 1890. Its political caricatures alone constitute a mine of historical information.

At the auction sale of Crispi's library held in Rome in 1907, Gay was one of the principal bidders, enriching his collection with thousands of pamphlets, many of them bearing authors' dedications to the Italian statesman, and some of them containing Crispi's pencilled annotations. Crispi preserved everything that was sent to him after he returned from exile in 1860, and he purchased heavily both new and old material.

Domenico Berti, minister of education and for forty years prominent as an educator, writer, and statesman, left a very valuable collection of about 125 bound volumes

of pamphlets, all of which entered the Gay Collection. The volumes were later broken up and the pamphlets reclassified. Another important group of publications came from offices of the Societá Nazionale Italiana, whose members bore an important part in Garibaldi's expedition of the Thousand in 1860, and in the subsequent expeditions sent out to its support. Among these publications is a run of *Il Piccolo Corriere*, official newspaper of the Society, complete for the critical period from December 1859 through 1861, a run which is almost unique.

The material on local movements of the Risorgimento is particularly difficult to find, as local publications are usually issued in small editions and are to be obtained only on the spot. Many revolutionary publications were destroyed early for fear of the restored despotic governments, fear that was well justified. For example, if a copy of a number of Mazzini's *Giovine Italia* was found in some parts of Italy, its possessor stood a fair chance of the gallows. Publications on the siege of Venice in 1848–1849, are especially rare and this part of the collection represents a search carried on during several visits to that city. Florence and Bologna were long the best markets for the purchase of Risorgimento material on central and northern Italy, as was Naples for the south; but Sicilian material has rarely been found outside the island.

Of historical publications made since the collection was initiated many bear personal autograph dedications to the collector, for in the course of his long residence in Italy he has made many friends among historians of the period. He was the first founding member of the Società Nazionale per la Storia del Risorgimento, organized at the Congress of Milan in 1906, at which both he and Thayer read papers. And for more than twenty years he has been a member of the National Historical Commission for the Risorgimento, the only foreigner appointed by the Italian government.

The methods followed in making the collection never varied. Gay never ordered by telegraph from any cata-

logue, for a telegram from him would have defeated its own purpose, suggesting to the dealer that the items ordered were rare, with the probable result that they would have been withheld. Orders, however, were always *conditioned on immediate shipment*, and payment was made by return mail, thus winning the bookseller's good will. No books were bought from private owners, as such purchases would generally entail long negotiation, private individuals usually placing what Italians call a 'price of affection' on their property.

One of the great Risorgimento rarities is Cavour's first publication, an anonymous pamphlet, 'Extrait du Rapport des commissaires de S. M. Britannique qui ont ëxécuté une enquéte générale sur l'administration des fonds provenants de la taxe des pauvres en Angleterre.' Turin, 1835, of which only one or two copies were known until Gay called particular attention to it by an article in the *Nuova Antologia* on 'Cavour e Cesare Balbo.' A bookseller then unearthed two copies in Turin, one of which he graciously offered at a low figure in appreciation of the article — an unusual courtesy that was promptly accepted.

The 'ordering department' of the collection, which was the collector himself, ran smoothly, without interruption, for over thirty years with the result that the number of volumes, pamphlets, broadsides, and bound volumes of newspapers, accurately classified, came to exceed thirty-five thousand, and occupied forty-five bookcases, great and small, some of them containing several thousand items each.

In making the collection many duplicates were acquired, mostly pamphlets, and for a period of years these were presented regularly to Harvard University. There they have now been rejoined by the remainder of the collection, which has safely made the long journey from its Roman home.

THE SCHOFIELD MEMORIAL

By Gudrun Barnason

The recent addition to the Icelandic books of the Harvard College Library, acquired from Mr. Kristján Kristjánsson, of Reykjavík, Iceland, through the generosity of Mrs. William H. Schofield, makes the Icelandic collection of Harvard rivalled on this side of the Atlantic only by the Fiske Collection at Cornell University. These books were given April 6, 1931, on the anniversary of his birthday, as a memorial to Professor William Henry Schofield, late chairman of the Department of Comparative Literature at Harvard. It is most appropriate for this purpose, because Professor Schofield's own work had identified him closely with Scandinavian studies, and he had had an important share in extending the realization of the contribution which the linguistics and the writings of these countries have made to an ampler understanding of comparative literature.

The gift comes also at an opportune time, as Sigurður Nordal, professor at the University of Iceland, and a noted scholar and poet, has been appointed to the Charles Eliot Norton Professorship of Poetry at Harvard for the academic year 1931–32. In disposing of his collection Mr. Kristjánsson's chief concern was that it should go where it would be of real service, and we have every reason to feel confident that it will become a valuable addition to the Harvard College Library, and that located at Harvard it will help the people of Vinland the Good to become better acquainted with the country of Leifur Eiríksson.

While the collection of Icelandic books already possessed by Harvard at the time of the recent purchase was especially strong in saga literature and philological works, the new acquisition is, as will be brought out in the course of this article, particularly rich in modern literature, ephem-

eral material, and periodicals. The new and the old, therefore, combine to form an exceptionally representative collection.

In the world of letters, Icelandic literature is in some respects unique. As old as the nation that produced it, it covers a period of more than a thousand years. It is in a language that has undergone so little change, that an Icelandic child can almost as easily understand the old sagas as the writings of today.

The production of books in Iceland has, of course, never been large, and in the earliest period, due to isolation and many other hardships, it was beset with many difficulties. The first book known to have been printed there is the Breviarium Nidrosiense, the printer being Jón Matthíasson, a Swede. It was issued in 1534 at Hólar, where according to records, the first printing press in Iceland had been established in 1530 by Bishop Jón Arason.

In 1584 the first Bible in Icelandic was printed at Hólar, and a copy is the oldest book in the Schofield Collection. It was edited and translated in part by Bishop Guðbrandur Þórlaksson. He used Oddur Gottskálksson's translation of the New Testament and other translations of parts of the Bible. The printer is Jón Jónsson. The Harvard copy of this first Icelandic Bible, with many fine woodcuts and initials, some said to be by the Bishop, is in excellent preservation. This Bible is known as Guðbrandarbiblía.

The second printing of the Bible was at Hólar in 1644. This edition was published by Bishop Þorlákur Skúlason, grandson of Bishop Guðbrandur, and is known as Þorlaksbiblía. A third edition, radically revised, not for the better, by Bishop Steinn Jónsson, issued from the Hólar Press in 1728 and is generally known as Steinsbiblía. The so-called Waysenhúsbiblía is the next edition, printed at Copenhagen in 1747, and gets its name from the press from which it issued. In 1813 the British and Foreign Bible Society published the fifth edition of the Bible in

Icelandic. This was printed at Copenhagen and is known as Harmagrútsbiblía, due to a printer's error: Harmagrútur Jeremías (Whale-oil Lamentations of Jeremiah), instead of Harmagrátur Jeremías. A copy of each of these editions, in a splendid state of preservation, is in the collection.

The earliest books known to have been printed in Iceland were predominantly religious. But when the press was moved from Hólar to Skálholt, in 1685, there was some change in policy, and the honor goes to Skálholt of printing for the first time in Iceland some of the sagas, such as Landnámabók and Kristnisaga, in 1688, and Ólafs saga Tryggvasonar in 1689–90. Some of the religious books with Skálholt imprint to be found in the collection are: Paradiser Likell, the first book printed at Skálholt, in 1686; the popular Soliloquia Animæ, printed in 1697 — a reprint; and the so-called Skálholtskver, by Þorsteinn Illugason, published in 1694 — the first pocket-sized edition in Iceland.

Of religious books there are none in the Icelandic language that has enjoyed such permanent popularity as the Passion Hymns of Hallgrímur Pétursson, 1614–1674. While religious ideas and tastes of the Icelanders have undergone a marked change since 1666, when these hymns were published for the first time, still the Passion Hymns are read with the same interest and enjoyment as then, not only for the beauty of the poetry, and the force of the moral wisdom contained in them, but even a most unorthodox person is carried away by the author's intense love of and faith in Christ. In 1924, on the 250th anniversary of the poet's death, the 46th edition was issued. The work has been translated into a number of foreign languages, including Latin, of which the collection has two editions, as well as twelve Icelandic issues from different periods, the oldest bearing the Hólar imprint and the date 1727.

The greater part of the books of the period from 1584 to 1830, are in their original bindings. The Guðbrandarbiblía is bound in natural home-cured calfskin, with the inscription 'Frá Tjarnarkirkju' (From the church at Tjörn)

printed by hand on its outer cover. This inscription seems, however, to be of a later date. The first edition of the Vídalíns Húspostilla, printed at Hólar in 1718–20, is in a fine contemporary binding of tooled leather, with brass clasps and ornaments. This is a book of sermons for every Sunday and religious holiday in the year, and has gone through more editions than any other book of similar kind. The author is Bishop Jón Þorláksson Vídalín, generally considered the most eloquent preacher Iceland has ever had. Two of Vídalín's books for home devotion, printed at Hólar in 1716 and 1722, respectively, and known as Sjöorðabók and Miðvikudagaprjedikanir, are bound together in a contemporary binding, blind-tooled, with owner's initials on front: A.G.D. at top, and A.B. at bottom; on reverse side: Anno 1724. This might be a bridal gift from a father to his daughter. Both books are first editions. Many of the bindings of these older books are of home-worked sheepskin. In one of them a peculiar roughness of the surface of the skin reveals the fact that the knife used in shaving off the wool was not sharp.

The old Icelandic way of stating the price of a book may be of interest. On the title page of most of the books of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is a statement to the effect that the book is sold for so many 'fish,' a term that goes back to the time when bartering was the method of exchange. For instance, Drottins vors Jesu Christi Fædingar Historia, by Stefán Halldórsson, has the following: Selst inbunden aa Skrif Pappyr 12 Fiskum; En aa Prent Pappyr 10 Fiskum. (sold bound, printed on writing paper, for 12 fish; but on print paper 10 fish). Again, the Sigurhroos Hugvekiur, by Jón Jónsson, Hólar 1797, has this by way of justification of its price: 'Sold bound for 16 fish; unbound, 13 fish; whereby it may be seen that there is no profit, since the sheet comes to less than two 'skildings.' Our only concern is the glory of God, and to lighten the people's burden.' Indeed, the period in question was one of great hardships for the people of Iceland.

Mr. Kristjánsson collected a large number of reprints of philological articles from learned publications, among them many that are undoubtedly rare copies. In general, however, the Kristjánsson material is not as representative with respect to saga literature and philological works as it is in the other departments. This is due to the fact that much of this material has been printed outside of Iceland and that Mr. Kristjánsson, who was mainly interested in Icelandic imprints, therefore, probably did not make special effort to collect it. Fortunately the Library was already well equipped in this field.

Mr. Kristjánsson has been particularly successful in gathering together ephemeral material, and in this department the collection is probably unexcelled, except by the National Library of Iceland.

The occasional poetry, for instance, is particularly well represented. Most of it has, of course, never been reprinted and many of the poems by well-known authors are not to be found in their collected works. There is likewise a wealth of elegiac poems, epitaphs, funeral orations and short biographical sketches. These may be of interest as poetry or as sources of biographical information. The poetry is, of course, of very uneven quality, ranging all the way from plain trash to the finest in the language. Many of the poems are by well-known poets and some are not to be found elsewhere. As biographical material this extensive obituary literature is undoubtedly of great value.

The fly-sheets, most of which date from 1906 to 1911, are of special interest as being a passing phase in news service. It was in 1906 that an under-sea cable was laid to Iceland. The period of active existence of the fly-sheet extended from that time to 1911, the year of the first appearance of a daily paper that was destined to endure. There are, of course, fly-sheets antedating this period, as one from the nineties, containing the news of an influenza epidemic in the Westman Islands, the news having been brought to Reykjavík by a despatch rider. Mention may also be made

of fly-sheets during the World War, when for the first fifteen months of the war they formed a regular feature of the service of the daily papers, and in the case of one of the papers, appeared regularly in the original English, with a hastily translated Icelandic version. While fly-sheets have not ceased to exist in Iceland, they are now mainly issued in those parts of the country which have no daily paper, and even in Reykjavík, the only place in Iceland that has dailies, the fly-sheet still appears occasionally.

The programs and posters of theater performances, concerts and other entertainments form another interesting section, of particular importance to Harvard because they fill an almost empty niche on the history of the theatre. There is, for example, a complete collection of programs of the Dramatic Society of Reykjavík, from the time it was reorganized in 1904 down to the present year. The society was first organized in 1897. From that time until 1904, the period which may be regarded as its infancy, it played mainly light comedies from the Danish. Since its reorganization it has become more and more ambitious, and its offerings have been fairly representative of the dramatic works of the world. Besides Icelandic dramatists, such as Matthías Jochumsson, Indriði Einarsson and Jóhann Sigurjónsson, we find among the foreign dramatic authors represented on its programs the names of Ibsen, Björnson, Schiller, Shakespeare, Dumas fils, Sudermann, Galsworthy and G. B. Shaw.

In addition to programs of professional performances there is an interesting body of programs and posters of amateur and benefit entertainments, in which figure prominent men of the time, such as poets, writers, and leading men in other fields. Performances of this kind were particularly in vogue from 1890 to 1905.

Mention may also be made of poems, programs, menus, place cards and other items from a trip of the Alþingismenn (members of the legislature of Iceland) to Denmark, at the invitation of King Frederick VIII, in 1906. This

material has an added interest due to the fact that it was assembled and preserved by a well-known philologist, the late Professor Björn Magnússon Ólsen, who was at that time a member of the Altþing.

One of the rarest items among this ephemeral material is 'Iceland's declaration of independence,' issued by the freebooter Jörgen Jörgensen, when he, single-handed, took possession of the country in the summer of 1809. In Iceland he is generally known as the 'dog-days king,' his 'reign' having lasted just that long. Included with the last-mentioned item are other broadsides pertaining to this incident, such as a proclamation of a commercial agreement between a commander of an English man-of-war and the Vice Governor of Iceland.

In a country with no towns, no administrative center, no roads but trails, no mail routes, the publishing of periodicals and newspapers is not apt to be a remunerative undertaking. But this was precisely the situation which confronted Magnús Ketilsson, when he launched the first periodical in Iceland, the so-called Islandske Maaneds Tidender (The Icelandic Monthly News), which was published in Danish and printed in the Hrappsey Press. Three volumes appeared during its lifetime, 1773–75. From its name one would infer that it dealt mainly with the news of the day. However, its principal contents are various articles on different topics, with generous space devoted to the subject of agriculture, in which the editor himself was much interested.

The second Icelandic periodical, and the first to be printed in the Icelandic language, takes us to the actual capital of Iceland at that time, Copenhagen, where the first number was issued in 1781 by the Icelandic Literature Society, founded in 1779. Fifteen volumes of this publication appeared. In view of its rather cumbersome title, Rit þess Islenzka Lærdóms-Lista Fjelags, it later became popularly known as Gömlu fjelagsritin. Its contents are varied and of considerable historical interest,

consisting of such items as articles on medical and sanitary matters; the first two books of Milton's Paradise Lost, translated by Jón Þorláksson; Benedikt Jónsson Gröndal's translation of Pope's Temple of Fame; an epitome of Páll Vídalín's commentary on a law code from the thirteenth century known as Jónsbók, to mention a few which fit into sections where the Harvard Library is especially strong. This periodical was widely read — read to tatters, so to speak.

In 1794 Magnús Stephensen, 1762–1833, started his meritorious undertaking. On his initiative was founded Hið íslenzka Landsuppfræðingarfjelag (The Icelandic Society for National Enlightenment), which in 1796 began to publish the annual Minnsiverð tíðindi (News Worth Remembering). This periodical appeared at irregular intervals until 1806, three volumes in all. As a further effort along this line Magnús Stephensen began in 1797 the publication of another periodical called Skemtileg Vinagleði, of which only one volume appeared, however. This was followed the next year by Margvíslegt Gaman og Alvara, which also issued from Mr. Stephensen's press, and a second volume of which did not appear until twenty years later.

A date of great importance in the history of periodical publication in Iceland is that of the founding of Hið íslenzka Bókmentafjelag (The Icelandic Literary Society), 1816. The prime movers in this important undertaking were the eminent Danish philologist R. C. Rask and Árni Helgason, later Bishop of Iceland. The society had two sections, one in Reykjavík, the other in Copenhagen. This division was in force until 1911, when Reykjavík became its headquarters. In 1817, the society started to publish Íslenzk Sagnablöð, an annual containing foreign news as well as reports of literary activities of Icelanders in Copenhagen, which was the place of issue of this periodical. Its name was changed in 1827 to Skírnir, and under that name it is still published. It was edited and printed in Copen-

hagen until 1890, since which time Reykjavík has been its place of publication. In 1905, it became a quarterly and its policy was considerably modified in that, instead of being mainly confined to foreign news and summary accounts of the more important Scandinavian books, as had previously been the case, it came to contain chiefly literary and other contributions of general interest. The Icelandic Literary Society has remained true to the statement of its original purpose: 'to further and maintain the language and literature, civilization and honor of the Icelandic nation by publication of books, or by other means, as circumstances permit.'

Another periodical that came into existence through the efforts of that untiring educator, Magnús Stephensen, was Klausturpósturinn, of which nine volumes appeared from 1818 to 1826. It was printed in Viðey, where a monastery had been in Catholic times, hence the name of this monthly, The Cloister Post. It enjoyed much popularity, partly no doubt because of the great variety of its contents, as it contained both foreign and domestic news, articles on agriculture, medicine and sanitation, besides important contributions by such men as Bjarni Thorarensen, Sveinbjörn Egilsson and others.

From 1826 to 1848, various Icelandic periodicals were issued both in Iceland and in Copehagen. It was the year 1848 that saw the first publication of Þjóðólfur, which was to occupy for a long time a prominent place among Icelandic newspapers. At first it was issued fortnightly, but soon became a weekly, and continued as such for about sixty years, or until 1912, when it ceased to be published. However, it was revived later, but again discontinued in 1920. From 1850 to 1874, a number of newspapers were started, mostly opposing the political or other views of Þjóðólfur, but they were all of short duration, until Björn Jónsson, 1846–1912, founded Ísafold in 1874, the year of the thousandth anniversary of the settlement of Iceland. That year marks a definite change in political and eco-

nomic conditions in Iceland, and Ísafold has truly played a prominent part in the great fight for political and economic independence of the country, although its founder and editor, Björn Jónsson, did not live to see the final triumph of the cause for which he fought so valiantly for nearly forty years. His son, Ólafur Björnsson, who became the owner and editor of the paper at the time his father died in 1912, did, however, see the results of his father's work, when on December 1, 1918, Iceland became an independent kingdom in personal union with Denmark. Ólafur Björnsson died in 1919, and with him passed out of existence the paper that had more than any other moulded public opinion for more than forty years. Although a paper by the same name is still printed in Iceland, it has little in common with the grand old Ísafold.

During the time that Þjóðólfur and Ísafold, each in their own way, fought their long fight for their country's independence, and incidentally fought each other on some questions, other newspapers were published both in Reykjavík and in other places in Iceland, particularly in Akureyri, 'the northern capital,' which has long tried to take the place of the Hólar Press by supplying at least the people of the northern part of the country with reading matter. Among the papers of Akureyri may be named Norðri; Norðanfari, and Norðurland. In Reykjavík a paper named Fjallkonan was published from 1884 to 1911. For nineteen years it was owned and edited by the Norse scholar, Valdimar Ásmundarson, 1852–1902, a noted student of Icelandic history.

Mention may be made of that stormy petrel of Icelandic politics, Jón Ólafsson, 1850–1916, a poet and a writer, as well as a man of many-sided experience. He was the founder and editor at one time or another of thirteen newspapers and periodicals, in America, Canada, and Iceland, and was at different times an employee of the United States government, a librarian in Chicago, and a member of the legislature of Iceland.

At present the principal newspapers published in Reykjavík are: the two dailies Morgunblaðið and Vísir, organs of the Independence Party; Alþýðublaðið, a daily sponsored by the Socialist Party; Tíminn, a weekly supported by the Agrarian Party; Vörður, a weekly devoted to the cause of the Independence Party; and Lögrjetta, a non-political paper containing mainly foreign news. Outside of Reykjavík the following towns publish one or more weeklies: Akureyri, Isafjörður, Vestmannaeyjar, Hafnarfjörður, Seyðisfjörður, Nes, and Siglufjörður.

The most important of the periodicals is Skírnir, published by the Icelandic Literary Society, as stated before. It is by far the oldest, being 114 years old. Next in importance is Andvari, founded in 1874, and since then published by the Icelandic Patriotic Society. Of more recent periodicals devoted to literary and other subjects of general appeal, the foremost are Eimreiðin and Iðunn. The former was founded in 1895 by Dr. Valtýr Guðmundsson of the University of Copenhagen, and was owned and edited by him until 1917, when he sold it to Ársæll Árnason, a publisher and bookseller in Reykjavík. It has always been, and still is, an excellent magazine. While Iðunn was first published in 1860, it has not had continued existence. A year after it was founded it ceased to appear, was revived in 1884, and continued then until 1889, when its publication was again discontinued. It reappeared anew in 1915, and is still being published. Throughout its intermittent existence, it maintained a high literary standard.

Besides other periodicals of the type of Eimreiðin and Iðunn, there are many devoted to special fields, such as commerce, agriculture, and fishing, as well as a number of professional journals.

The Icelanders in Canada and the United States have published several newspapers and periodicals. Of these Sameiningin, Breiðablik, and Heimir, as well as some others, are to be found in the collection, while the two principal Icelandic-Canadian newspapers, Heimskringla

and Lögberg, both more than forty years old, are strangely lacking, as well as Tímarit þjóðræknisfjelags Íslendinga í Vesturheimi (Annual of the Patriotic Society of Icelanders in the Western World).

These striking omissions may perhaps be explained by the fact that Mr. Kristjánsson appears to have been chiefly interested in collecting works printed in Iceland or in Copenhagen, where Icelandic books and periodicals were frequently published before 1900. However, taken as a whole, the collection of periodical literature is remarkable for its completeness, for, with the exception of the very earliest and extremely rare Islandske Maaneds Tidender, it contains practically everything from the earlier period, besides including a wealth of fly-by-night news sheets and other papers of short duration from the later periods.

When we come to consider the section of Icelandic literature of the last hundred years, we are struck by the remarkable thoroughness with which Mr. Kristjánsson has collected works produced since 1830, a date that may be regarded as the beginning of a new era in Icelandic letters. It was then that a spirit of patriotism, which had had its origin under the leadership of the poet and patriot, Eggert Ólafsson, 1726–1768, began definitely to gain momentum, manifesting itself in a movement to seek inspiration, as to style and language, in the sagas and the scaldic poetry

It may be worth pausing for a moment to mention a few of the authors of the works in this important part of the collection—men like Bjarni Thorarensen, 1786–1841, a poet much influenced by the Romantic movement in Europe, as to subject matter, while his poetical form reminds one most of the Eddic poems. He produced only one volume of poetry, which was not published in book form until after his death. Jónas Hallgrímsson, 1807–1845, is probably the writer that has exerted the greatest influence on other poets of his country, and who has at the

same time been the most popular. Among his works are some short stories, but he is mainly known for his poetry, which is of great lyrical beauty and unexcelled as to purity of language. Jón Þórðarson Thoroddsen, 1818–1868, composed a number of charming lyrics, but his outstanding works are two novels: Piltur og stúlka (Lad and Lass) and Maður og kona (Man and Wife). He was the pioneer novelist of Iceland, and has been, and still is, much enjoyed for his fund of good-natured humor, for his success in describing odd persons, as well as for the interesting pictures of his time contained in his works. Hjálmar Jónsson, 1796–1875, who was of the humblest origin and lived in dire poverty all his life, may be cited as an example of a poetical genius that cannot be downed even by the worst of fates. Without any formal education whatever, he composed nevertheless a number of poems of the highest quality, had a wonderful command of language, and every one of his satirical shafts hit the mark.

Benedikt Sveinbjarnarson Gröndal, 1826–1907, an artist as well as a prolific writer on various subjects, wrote some of the most humorous stories in the language, as well as a great amount of poetry of rather uneven quality, much of it, however, being of a high order. A contemporary of his, the farmer Páll Ólafsson, 1827–1905, is best known for his delightful short-lined quatrains, which characterize so much of the folk poetry of Iceland. He is often very witty, and his touch is always light and deft, and of great lyrical charm. The love poems to his wife are justly appreciated and known by heart by many an Icelander.

The first Icelandic woman writer of importance, Mrs. Torfhildur Þorsteinsdóttir Hólm, 1845–1918, wrote a number of historical novels, such as the three works on the bishops Jón Arason (16th century), Brynjólfur Sveinsson (17th century) and Jón Vídalín (18th century). She also wrote several novels, short stories and fairy tales. Much of her work appeared in the periodicals Draupnir and Dvöl, of which she was both owner and editor for many years.

The greatest Icelandic poet of the nineteenth century, Matthías Jochumsson, 1835–1920, not only wrote poetry, which has been collected in five volumes, besides a volume of poems on the Grettis Saga, but also five plays, several essays, and an account of his travels abroad. He was a frequent contributor to newspapers and periodicals, was editor of four weeklies, and translated a number of foreign works. Considering his great productivity, it is remarkable how little there is in his golden flood of poetry that might be classed as mediocre. Some of his memorial poems are the finest in the language since 'Sonatorrek' of Egill Skallagrímsson, and several of the most beautiful hymns in the 'New Hymn Book' are from his pen. Among the other religious poets of the nineteenth century contributing to the hymnal of the Church of Iceland are Helgi Hálfdánarson, 1826–1894, who composed or translated a great number of hymns, and Valdemar Briem, 1848– , one of the most productive contributors to the hymnal, who has written a poetical version of the Bible in two large volumes, besides other volumes of religious poetry.

Some of the principal writers of fiction, besides J. Þ. Thoroddsen, already mentioned, are Gestur Pálsson, 1852–1891, a writer of some excellent short stories; Jónas Jónasson, 1856–1918, whose works have been translated into several foreign languages; and Einar Hjorleifsson Kvaran, 1859– , generally considered the foremost living novelist of Iceland. Kvaran has written numerous novels, short stories, and plays, and is the author of a volume of very fine poems, besides having edited and frequently contributed to newspapers and periodicals. His novels, as well as his short stories, many of which deal with the struggle and misery of life on the farms and hamlets, are much colored by the author's belief in spiritualism, and their leitmotiv is predominantly mercy and forgiveness. There are at least two other writers of fiction whom we must not fail to mention: Guðmundur Magnússon (pseud. Jón Trausti), 1873–1918, and Guðmundur Friðjónsson,

1869– . The former, Jón Trausti, the most productive novelist Iceland has had, is a keen observer, has a wealth of imagination and is an excellent story teller, although his style is at times somewhat faulty. He is also much esteemed as a composer of songs for music. The other, Guðmundur Friðjónsson, a self-educated farmer from the northern part of Iceland, and likewise a prolific writer, has written short stories, essays and poems. His stories deal exclusively with the section of the country where he has lived all his life, and his style is very much his own — vigorous and harking back to the sagas. He has a strong dislike for the 'foreign influence' of the towns on the countryside, and is an advocate of the old virtues that have proved to be of lasting worth to the nation in times past.

Of dramatists not already noted we should mention Indriði Einarsson, 1857– , who has written several plays and has been one of the leading spirits of the Dramatic Society of Reykjavík; and Jóhann Sigurjónsson, 1880–1919, who was at his best when he selected themes from the sagas or the folk tales. His works have gained considerable recognition abroad, particularly his drama 'Fjalla Eyvindur (Eyvindur of the Hills), which has been played in many countries in Europe as well as in the United States, and has also been filmed.

Of particular interest are the many notable contributions to Icelandic letters by Icelanders living in the United States or Canada. First of all may be named the works of Stephan Guðmundsson Stephansson, 1853–1927, a poor country lad who never went to school, emigrated to America when about twenty years of age, and took a homestead in Wisconsin, then another in North Dakota, and later a third in Alberta, Canada. In pure and vigorous Icelandic he depicts American life and environment. His poems are replete with profound thoughts on many vital questions, and his style is forceful and brilliant, although to some it may seem at times lacking in clearness. Most of his works are contained in his collected poems in five

volumes, called Andvökur (Lying Awake), a truly appropriate title, as it suggests the way in which this remarkable poetry was composed by a man who all his adult life had to contend with the hardships of a pioneer settler.

Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason, 1866– , who came to Nova Scotia when nine years of age, is without question the foremost among Icelandic novelists on this side of the Atlantic. His novels Eiríkur Hanson, in three volumes, dealing with life in Nova Scotia, and Brazilíufararnir (The Emigrants to Brazil) in two volumes, besides several books of short stories and one of poetry, all show a good fund of imagination and effective description of the life of his countrymen in the western world. Not a few of the Icelandic authors in America were born on this side of the water, as Guttormur Jónsson Guttormsson, born in Canada in 1878. He has written two volumes of poetry and has frequently contributed to Icelandic periodicals and newspapers in Canada In addition, several of the literary people of Iceland have lived for a longer or shorter period in the United States or in Canada, a fact which has undoubtedly influenced their writings. In this connection might be named Einar H. Kvaran, Jón Ólafsson, and Mrs. Hólm.

To the fine collection of the older rímur already possessed by the Library is now added a representative body of the more recent productions in this genre by Sigurður Breiðfjörð, Símon Bjarnarson Dakaskáld, and others. The rímur, a type of epic poetry unique as to form and style, derive their subject matter from such sources as the mythological or heroic tales, the Icelandic sagas, and chivalric romances and other stories of adventure. They began to flourish in the latter half of the fourteenth century, and have continued in vogue down to the present day, although they fell somewhat into disfavor for a time and were satirized by some of the important poets of the nineteenth century, especially for their elaborate and often extravagant style. Usually the rímur follow the story very closely. Each ríma or canto begins with a few verses called mansöngur (love song), which, as the name implies, is a

song in praise of some fair lady and often contains expressions of the poet's regrets of the good days gone by, or a bit of his philosophy of life. Circumlocutions (kenníngar) are used extensively, in the manner of the scaldic poetry. In the evening the rímur were chanted century after century in every home in Iceland, and more than anything else, they have helped the people to appreciate their ancient poetry. Einar Benediktsson, 1864– , rightly considered Iceland's greatest living poet, an old scald reborn, a consummate artist, who treats with equal mastery the grandeur of great cities, like London and Rome, and the scenes of his native land, has paid a tribute to the rímur as a form of literary composition in his Ólafs ríma Grænlendings, where he makes use of one of the most intricate of the rímur-meters, the so-called sljettubönd, in which every stanza may be read backward or forward without detriment to the thought, alliteration, rime or meter, as the last verse of the mansöngur to this ríma will show (Einar Benediktsson: Hrannir, p. 37):

	Reverse:
Falla tímans voldug verk,	Alla daga stendur sterk
varla falleg baga.	stuðla ríman snjalla.
Snjalla ríman stuðla-sterk	Baga falleg varla, verk
stendur alla daga.	voldug tímans falla.

There are in the collection numerous translations of foreign literary works, many of them done by well-known Icelandic authors. Among these may be noted translations by Jón Þorláksson, 1743–1819, of Milton's Paradise Lost and Klopstock's Messias, Matthías Jochumsson's translations of Shakespeare's Hamlet, Othello, and Romeo and Juliet, Byron's Manfred, Ibsen's Brand, Tegnér's Frithjofs Saga, five volumes of historical novels by Topelius, and many poems from English, German, and the Scandinavian languages. Another important Icelandic author, Steingrímur Thorsteinsson, 1831–1913, well-known for his many patriotic songs, lyrical poems, and epigrams, has translated a number of foreign works, including the Arabian Nights, Byron's Mazeppa and The Prisoner of Chillon,

Shakespeare's King Lear, Andersen's Fairy Tales, Defoe's Robinson Crusoe, and many other works of prose and poetry. Bjarni Jónsson, 1863–1926, has also many fine translations to his credit, such as: Goethe's Faust, Part I, and Bjórnson's The Bridal Melody. And Einar Benediktsson has likewise contributed some notable translations, among them Peer Gynt and The Raven.

An association book of particular interest is one presented by the poet Benedikt Gröndal to Mrs. Eiríkur Magnússon. It is a collection of poems by Benedikt Gröndal, Gísli Brynjúlfsson and Steingrímur Thorsteinsson, entitled 'Svava,' with an elaborate and handsome design done by the donor. Many other association items are to be found among the numerous presentation copies, especially of pamphlets and reprints from scientific and literary journals, both Icelandic and foreign, sent by the authors to their friends. There are, for instance, many such from Konráð Gíslason, Finnur Jónsson, and Þorvaldur Thoroddsen.

Before concluding this article mention should be made of the important part played by the Union Scandinavian Catalogue in our work of getting the collection ready for use. This catalogue, which records the holdings of American libraries in the field of Scandinavian literature and history, as well as works of Scandinavian authors in foreign languages, is maintained by the American Scandinavian Foundation, and was established on the initiative of Dr. Henry Goddard Leach, when he was Curator of Scandinavian Literature and History at Harvard. Our principal aid was, of course, the cards from the Fiske Collection, for, as regards Icelandic books and books dealing with Iceland, they indeed constitute the main strength of the Union Scandinavian Catalogue. The valuable service rendered by Professor Halldór Hermannsson to Icelandic letters in general, and to Icelandic bibliography in particular, can hardly be praised too highly. He has blazed a trail for any librarian having occasion to catalogue Icelandic books.

THE ICELANDIC PERIODICALS

By Kimball C. Elkins

The periodicals in the Schofield Icelandic Collection make up a section of more than five hundred titles. Previous to their acquisition Harvard had, thanks chiefly to the Von Maurer Collection which came to the library in 1904, an excellent selection of the older and more important literary and historical periodicals, including the Islandske Maanedstidender, the first periodical to be published in Iceland, which is so rare that even the new collection does not contain a copy, and the earliest periodical printed in the Icelandic language, Rit þess Íslenzka Lærdóms-Lista Fjelags. In fact, many of the periodicals mentioned as of greatest importance in Mrs. Barnason's article in this number, were on our shelves, though in some cases the sets were incomplete. In respect to newspapers the Library was less well off, but had partial sets of Þjóðólfur and Ísafold, two of the most important titles.

The new collection converts what had previously been a small but well selected department of the Library into one that is, with a few important exceptions, remarkably complete. It is at the same time greatly enlarged in scope. Since the Von Maurer library was gathered together there has been a great expansion in the publication of periodicals in Iceland, particularly in the direction of a greater specialization of subject-matter. This is, of course, not a local movement, but is familiar to everyone. With it I would class, somewhat arbitrarily, the parallel development of serials devoted to the propaganda of special interests. The growth of these two movements may be studied with great accuracy by means of the Schofield Collection, because it is so nearly complete. The most important industries of Iceland, agriculture and fisheries, are, of course, well represented: agriculture by Búnaðarrit

(1887 to date) and Freyr (1904 to date), fisheries by Ægir, which began publication in 1905. There is also a fisherman's almanac. The collection moreover includes periodicals devoted to the interests of commerce, education, engineering, medicine, religion, theosophy, the 'Youth Movement.' Folklore is represented by Gráskinna, edited by Sigurður Nordal and Þórbergur Þórdarson, as well as by other publications. The interests of sport are served by Íþróttablaðið, the organ of the Icelandic Athletic Association, and there is also a chess periodical, Íslenzk Skákblað. The Icelandic campaign of the Salvation Army is reflected in its local organ, Herópið, while the Independent Order of Good Templars has circulated its propaganda under a number of Icelandic titles.

The Schofield Collection is especially strong in the sort of material that must be collected immediately and on the spot, if it is not to disappear forever. Examples are short-lived periodicals and those which are fugitive in nature. The rate of infant mortality among Icelandic periodicals is high, so that Harvard was fortunate in being able to take advantage of Mr. Kristjánsson's energy in collecting those whose life was only for three or four issues, or even less. The number of such titles in the collection is large, and some undoubtedly are already very rare. Mr. Kristjánsson did not disdain to collect the most ephemeral material, such as leaflets devoted primarily to advertising but whose make-up as periodicals is excused by the presence in each number of a very short story or news article.

He was also alert in collecting fugitive items of greater importance. Among them may be mentioned the Sept. 7, 1907 number of the newspaper, Reykavík which was confiscated by the government of Iceland because of an article attacking the king. The collection contains three copies of the suppressed issue, as well as a copy of the edition which was substituted for it. It also has a copy of the Norðurland of Jan. 9, 1905, which was suppressed for diplomatic reasons.

With the periodicals I should perhaps mention the Icelandic documents, of which the Library had several important sets before acquiring the Schofield Collection. These included the Diplomatarium Islandicum, a collection which Hið Íslenzka Bókmentafélag began to publish in 1857, and which is intended to cover the whole period of Icelandic history from 834 to date; the proceedings of the Alþing from 1845 to 1883 as well as a few numbers of the eighteenth century Lǫg-þingis Bookin; the Stiórnartiðindi (primarily a collection of laws and decrees), which had been transferred to the Law School Library; and the official statistics. The new collection has added largely to it. It brings the modern series of Alþingistiðindi down to date, and supplies various administrative documents which were lacking before. It is also strong in educational material, especially in the reports of individual schools.

A suggestion of the various uses for this material at Harvard should be left to experts in the several fields. To the student of modern Icelandic literature it is evidently an advantage to be able to study the works of the important authors in the periodicals in which they originally appeared. The historian will find here a wealth of contemporary documents illustrating the political, social and economic life of the country, while anyone interested in the conquests abroad of the American cinema, or American methods of advertising, will find the evidence for Iceland ready to his hand by turning the leaves of the more recent newspapers.

The cataloging of the periodicals is still going on, and with it the discovery of new items of interest. While the above article was on its way through the press, we found in a little paper of which, so far as we know, only one issue ever appeared, a translation of the Declaration of Independence. It is dated Sept. 22, 1887. The translator, Jón Ólafsson (1850–1916), spent part of his life on this continent, and was the author of a book about Alaska, part of which was submitted, in substance, to President Grant as the "Report of the Icelandic Committee from Wisconsin on the Character and Resources of Alaska.

THE BUTTERFLY LOOKING FOR HONEY

Dear Miss Lowell,—

Here is the little picture: a hundred and twenty guineas.

I only beg, if you keep it, that you will *leave it in its frame* for the next six months, when you may send it to Mr. Kennedy, New York, who will varnish it, and then you will see the picture in all its full brightness, as it was the day it was painted, for the first time.

Meanwhile it is most important that it should *not be touched*, as the signature is quite fresh, and indeed the whole picture is scarcely dry.

Will you permit me to add that if in this great haste you feel that more time would have given you better chance for consideration, you will not hesitate to send back the little work, and on your next visit to London, or to Paris, you shall come and arrange more at your leisure.

With my compliments to your sister, and my best wishes for your trip across,

believe me, dear Miss Lowell,
Very faithfully yours
J. McNeill Whistler

If the picture remain yours,
perhaps one of these days you
will lend it me for exhibition.

8, Fitzroy Street
London

From Miss Amy Lowell's Collection of Autographs.

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